



# Manchester Urban Ponds Restoration Program

City of Manchester Environmental Protection Division  
300 Winston Street - Manchester NH 03103 (603) 665-6899  
[www.manchesternh.gov/urbanponds](http://www.manchesternh.gov/urbanponds)

## Rake It or Leave It? What to Do with Your Leaves and Grass Clippings

Spring and fall yard cleanups in New England always include leaves. The leaves on your lawn can be a valuable resource or a source of water pollution. Mulched leaves and grass clippings can add valuable nutrient and organic matter to your lawn. However, if yard waste is dumped near or in waterbodies, it can smother natural vegetation and contribute to algae and odors in waterbodies. In fact, in an effort to protect wetlands and surface waters, the New Hampshire Fill and Dredge in Wetlands statute (RSA 482-A) prohibits filling wetlands and waterbodies with waste materials, including yard waste. Below are some easy practices for addressing yard waste that you can take to help keep our waterbodies clean.



- Remove the bag from your lawnmower or use a mulching lawnmower. Leave mulched grass clippings and leaves on the lawn after mowing so they can naturally fertilize the soil and prevent evaporation to reduce the amount you need to water.
- Place your yard waste in approved and labeled containers or paper bags at the curb for collection. Collection is every week in the early spring and late fall and one-two times a month in the summer. Always check the annual City of Manchester Solid Waste Guide for specific dates.
- During the winter and early spring when curbside pickup of yard waste is unavailable, consider dropping it off, at no cost, at the City of Manchester Drop-Off Facility at 500 Dunbarton Road.
- If possible, consider backyard composting.
- Never dispose of leaves, grass clippings, or any other yard waste in or near storm drains, wetlands, streams, rivers, ponds, or lakes.

**Using these water-quality friendly lawn care and fertilizer recommendations is a small change that can make a big difference!**

*This message is brought to you by the City of Manchester's Environmental Protection Division. It helps Manchester meet educational and outreach requirements as set forth by the US Environmental Protection Agency's National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) stormwater discharge permit for municipalities.*